

drawn at home. All Stand seats have been sold, and tickets to season-ticket holders will be in the post by this week-end.

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This afternoon we play Leicester City for the second time this season — we drew 1-1 at Filbert Street in September — and there may be two more meetings ahead. For Leicester, like ourselves, have reached the home-and-away Semi-Finals of the Football League Cup, in the draw for which we have been kept apart. Leicester are paired with Plymouth Argyle, while we face Aston Villa in the first leg at Villa Park on Wednesday, January 20 and in the return here on Wednesday, February 10. So there is the possibility that we shall be meeting Leicester, the League Cup holders, in the Final (which is also on the two-leg basis).

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On the subject of Cup football, our Juniors achieved a well-earned 4-1 victory over Q.P.R. at Loftus Road in the Second Round of the F.A. Youth Cup 12 days ago, scoring three second-half goals despite being down to ten men through a knee injury sustained by right-half Jim McCalliog. There is another stiff hurdle awaiting our youngsters in the next Round — Swindon Town away, to be played on Tuesday, January 12 (7.30 p.m.)

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For the record: Though our unbeaten away record for the season (the last of its kind in the Football League) went at Sunderland a fortnight ago, our players are to be congratulated on having maintained the distinction for so long. No previous side in Chelsea history had ever gone that far into a season without losing an away League fixture.

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Spectators who saw Blackpool outside-right Leslie Lea carried off on a stretcher here last Saturday will be pleased to know that he did not suffer any fracture of the ankle, as was feared at the time.

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In the Christmas programme we omitted to record the recent transfer of full-back

FRONT COVER SHOT

WE wish you all we wish ourselves in the way of Good Luck in 1965, and Peter Bonetti, Barry Bridges, Ron Harris and John Mortimore “line up” to welcome in the New Year with an eager, hopeful eye on the trophy that has eluded Chelsea ever since our formation in 1905 — the F.A. Cup.

Will this be our year for Wembley? We’ve been wondering that at this time every season since the Final moved there from Stamford Bridge in 1923 . . . and this year is no exception.

But before we start out — against Northampton Town here next Saturday — on the path that will lead two teams to Wembley on May 1st, there are precious League Championship points at stake this afternoon. First things first, lads.

Alan Harris to Coventry City, but we take this slightly belated opportunity to thank him for his fine service to Chelsea and wish him every success with his new club. Alan, who was 22 on Monday, came up through our Youth Section and, over a period of five seasons made 70 League and four F.A. Cup appearances for Chelsea. We did not want to lose him, but equally did not wish to stand in his way when Coventry came with their offer of regular first-team football. Alan still trains with us two days a week and will continue to do so until he marries and settles down in Coventry early in the New Year. We know that younger brother Ron will keep us well informed of the progress of Alan’s career in new colours.

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to obtain a ticket for the
F.A. Cup Final.

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